Book Reviews

John Ferling. *Jefferson and Hamilton: The Rivalry That Forged a Nation*. New York: Bloomsbury Press, 2013. Pp. 464. Hardcover $30.00.

John Ferling, Professor Emeritus of History at the University of West Georgia, provides a balanced interpretation of the controversial relationship between Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton. The two political leaders of the Revolutionary Era and the early Republic had radically different visions for the new nation. As an Anti-Federalist, Jefferson envisioned prosperity through an agrarian economy and local governments. On the other hand, Hamilton, a Federalist, favored a strong central government and, as the main author of *The Federalist Papers*, championed his cause persuasively. Ferling's work does not draw on new sources, nor does he offer a radically new interpretation. Still, his writing is easy to read and he succeeds in making the contentious relationship of these two men a fascinating topic.

Ferling approaches his study of the lives of Jefferson and Hamilton chronologically, which allows him to seamlessly interweave the personal and political failures and successes of both men. He is critical of Hamilton, and portrays him as impulsive and volatile, behaving irrationally and burning bridges with John Adams. However, Ferling reminds readers that what Hamilton envisioned then, now in an integral part of the modern American economy. Ferling finds that Jefferson was also reckless, especially when it came to women. And he sees Jefferson as a racist hypocrite on the issue of slavery. While the author of the Declaration of Independence famously noted the alleged physical differences of black people disparagingly, he also claimed that he wanted to abolish slavery over time. Ferling does not attempt to reconcile these contradictions.

Both of these brilliant men championed their views during a time when the United States was establishing its identity. Ferling is

effective in using journal entries and letters to describe the context of this vital period. Hamilton envisioned prosperity through trade and centralized regulation, while Jefferson wanted a government that prioritized the agrarian economy. These two ideologies were at odds and presented two fundamentally different visions for this country. However, the ideological gulf between the two men was bridged momentarily when Hamilton secured Jefferson's presidency in 1800 over their mutual enemy Aaron Burr.

Ferling offers fascinating insights into the famous rivalry between Hamilton and Jefferson. Students and historians interested in the two men and the era they helped to shape will enjoy this book.

Jesse Cantu

Paul D. Almeida. *Waves of Protest: Popular Struggles in El Salvador, 1925-2005*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2008. Pp. 298. Paper $25.00.

Paul Almeida, a professor at the University of California, Merced, examines popular protests in El Salvador from 1925 to 2005, and identifies key social movements that sought change through protests by citizens with limited access to resources. Almeida initially uses the political process model to argue that social movements are more effective in "stable democracies." He then modifies the model when examining El Salvador's unstable and transitioning government by focusing on liberalization, intimidation, and globalization. Almeida argues that the 1932 revolt was a response to the government's reversal of tolerating organized assembly and mobilization. This repression initiated social movements and showed that denying institutional access can lead to the formation of civic organization against a repressive state. From that point, Almeida analyzes social movements over time rather than at specific moments.

Almeida focuses on three elements that eventually lead to social discontent, awareness, and then action. He ascribes the reversal of liberalization to the "global periphery" of state-attributed economic problems, erosion of rights, and state repression (22). Economic troubles hit El Salvador's coffee plantations by late 1931. Price increases, government regulations, and a move toward privatization of public sectors affected all Salvadorians. Peasants and wageworkers assembled to protest working and living conditions. At this time the government took away voting rights, and prohibited public assembly as well as other forms of public political participation. A military take over of the elected government between 1931-1979 as well as strikes